

Spring Mill State Park

All programs are free unless otherwise noted.

Programs at all our state parks and reservoirs: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/interpretiveservices/programs/schedule/>

July 6-31, 2006

Nature Center Hours:
Daily 9:00am-4:30pm (EDT)

Pioneer Village Hours:
9:00am-5:00pm (EDT)
Daily April thru October
Weekends thru December 3

Twin Caves Hours:
9:00am-5:00pm (EDT)
Daily May 27 thru Labor Day
Weekends thru October 28

Grissom Memorial Hours:
Daily 8:30am-4:00pm (EDT)

Property Mgr: Mark Young

Asst. Property Mgr.: Jon Winne

Interpretive Naturalists: Jill Vance,
Britton Starr, and Scott Stowers

Pioneer Village Staff: Housekeeper,
Weaver, Leatherworker, Quilter,
Blacksmith, Gardener, Miller,
and Woodworker

Twin Caves Staff: Cecil East, Brad
Hinds, Roy McIver, Erik Bare,
and Mark Shaber

Program Specialist: Dave Williams

Public programs are designed for individuals and families.

If you will be bringing an organized group, you can contact the Nature Center in advance and schedule a private program just for your group (\$1/person charge). (812) 849-4129

NOTICE: Trails 1 and 5 are currently closed for repairs.

HP-HP Healthy Parks – Healthy People

Get “INShape” with us, and discover what it takes to keep a state park healthy.




Look for our hikes and strolls!

Watch for the roving naturalist!




Thursday, July 6

10-11am **Park Patch Program** – Drop by the Nature Center to find out how you can earn a free patch and certificate this summer while enjoying our state parks and reservoirs. For families and individuals ages 5 thru adult. (Group leader? Ask about the Hoosier Pathfinder Patch!)


2:30pm  **Lake Hike** – Join us for a stroll along the lake edge. We'll look for turtles, frogs, great blue herons, ducks, and other watery critters. Meet at the Nature Center, back patio (30 min).

Friday, July 7 *The world is mud-luscious and puddle-wonderful. ~ e.e. cummings*

Saturday, July 8


10:15am  **History of Hamer Cave** – The cave system is the main reason why Spring Mill Village was established here. Learn what Hamer Cave has to do with the village (hint: it involves water!) and who else lays claim on it. *Hike ends inside the Gristmill in time for the 11:00am grind.* Meet in the Pioneer Village, in front of the Leatherworker's Shop (45 min).


11:30am **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).

1-3pm  **Creek Stomp** – What lives in the village creek? You'll find out as we kick up the sediment, flip over rocks, and look for watersnakes, fish, and underwater insects. Watch for the roving naturalist along the creek between the Pioneer Village and the parking lot. **HP-HP**



1:30pm **Make a Wheat Weaving** - Learn how people used to braid wheat and why they did it while making a simple, beautiful heritage decoration with the Village Housekeeper. Pioneer Village, Upper Residence Porch (30 min).

2:30pm **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).


6-8pm  **Not Me, Please!** – Get some tips on how you can avoid the bite of mosquitoes, ticks, and chiggers – and what to do if they find you anyway! Watch for the roving naturalist in the campground. **HP-HP**

9:15pm  **Sounds of the Night** – Keep your ears open for the animals that wake up as the sun goes down... we'll listen for and identify our nocturnal residents and learn why they're just getting up as we're bedding down. *No flashlights, please!* Meet at Nature Center, front patio (45 min).

Sunday, July 9

- 8:30am **Non-Denominational Worship Service** – Christian service presented by a local minister. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).
- 9-10am  **Beautiful Birds** – Drop in to see the beautiful engravings of Alexander Wilson, America’s first ornithologist, and find out how to get to the Wilson Monument in the park. Watch for the roving naturalist at the Concession Stand in the Pioneer Village.
- 10:30am **Simply Snakes** – Learn what makes a snake a snake, discover which snakes are most common in Spring Mill State Park, and meet a couple of our resident snakes up-close. Nature Center, Program Room (45 min).
- 11:30am **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 12-2pm  **Blind as a Fish** – Learn more about the endangered blind cavefish that Spring Mill State Park is famous for! How were they discovered? What do we know about them? Where can you see them in the park? Watch for the roving naturalist at the Twin Caves boat dock. **HP-HP**
- 1:30pm **Kitchen Herbs** – Learn about some of the herbs that pioneers used in cooking. Our Village Gardener will also share how you can add these plants to your garden. Pioneer Village, Garden Cabin (30 min)
- 2:00pm **Not-So-Scary Spiders** – Learn about a few of our many spiders, discover why we should love them not fear them, and get an up-close look at a few of these arachnids. Nature Center, program room (30 min).
- 2:30pm **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).



Monday, July 10

- 11:00am  **People of the Past** – Join us for an easy stroll through Hamer Cemetery, hear some stories about the people buried there, and discover how these people of the past are linked to people of the present. Meet in front of Hamer Cemetery (30 min).
- 1-2pm **Park Patch Program** – Drop by the Nature Center to find out how you can earn a free patch and certificate this summer while enjoying our state parks and reservoirs. For families and individuals ages 5 thru adult. (Group leader? Ask about the Hoosier Pathfinder Patch!)


Tuesday, July 11

- 10:30am **Make a Bug Hotel Necklace** – Design a temporary home for a six-legged critter that you can wear around your neck! Learn which insects might be willing to stop in, how to keep your short-term guest comfortable, and when to help them find a new “hotel”. *Craft supplies are limited, first come first served.* Nature Center, back patio (30 min).


Wednesday, July 12

- 2-3pm  **Got the Itch? Nature’s got the remedy!** – Discover Nature’s remedies for relief from poison ivy and stinging nettle and learn how to identify and avoid these plants in the future. Watch for the roving naturalist in Twin Caves parking lot.
- 8:00pm  **The Old Woods** – On this evening hike, we’ll see the oldest and mightiest trees in the park and learn about the man who helped preserve them. Meet at Twin Caves parking lot (45 min).

Thursday, July 13

- 1-2pm  **Ring Around the Raccoon** – Find out why there are so many raccoons in Spring Mill, especially in the campground, why they can be a problem, and what you can do to keep them away from your campsite. Watch for the roving naturalist by the Concession Stand. **HP-HP**
- 2:30pm **Leather or Hide?** – Can you figure out which is which? What’s the difference between them and what are they used for? Our village leatherworker will help you discover the answers! Pioneer Village, Leather Shop (30 min).

Friday, July 14

- 12-1pm  **Plant Invaders** – Learn about a few of the non-native, invasive plants trying to take over our park. Find out why we’re so concerned about them, what the park is doing to stop their spread, and how you can help. Watch for the roving naturalist in the Pioneer Village. **HP-HP**
- 2:30pm **Spring Mill, Past and Present** – We’ll take a look at old photographs, articles, papers, and stories to discover what Spring Mill State Park was like in the early 1900s. Find out how much of this early history is still evident in the park today. Nature Center, program room (45 min).

Saturday, July 15 ***VIRGIL I. “GUS” GRISSOM DAYS***

- 10:00am **“A Hometown Hero”** – The mayor of Mitchell, IN, Morris “Butch” Chastain, will open this year’s Grissom Days celebration with a welcome and commemoration of Mitchell’s hero, Virgil I “Gus” Grissom. Grissom Memorial (20 min).
- 10am-4pm **How Crane Relates to NASA** – Check out specialty batteries and other pieces produced for NASA with a representative from the Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center. Grissom Memorial.
- 10am-4pm **The National Museum of the United States Air Force** - “Gus” Grissom received part of his training at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base where the National USAF Museum is located. A representative will have brochures, trinkets and posters to hand out and can answer questions about the National Air Force Museum. Grissom Memorial.
- 11am-4pm **Star Lab** – Join the StoneBelt Stargazers inside the Star Lab (courtesy of Bedford North Lawrence High School) and get to know our constellations.
- 12:00pm **A Taste of Space** – Eating dinner in space can be a challenge! See and sample some of the food that astronauts eat in their off-world flights. Grissom Memorial (30 min).
- 1:00pm **Solar Viewing** – Ever wonder what the surface of the Sun looks like? Find out with the StoneBelt Stargazers by gazing at our star through special telescopes (don’t try this at home!). Grissom Memorial (1 hr).
- 2:00pm **Build a Rocket** – Put your rocket design skills to the test by building and decorating a pop bottle rocket (suitable for all ages). Bring it back at 4:00pm to try it out! Grissom Memorial (45 min).
- 3:00pm **StoneBelt Stargazers** – Join our local astronomy club for more solar viewing and information about what the club does and how you can join. Grissom Memorial (45 min).
- 4:00pm **Pop Bottle Rocket Launch** – The Launch Countdown has begun! We’ll need a Captain and an Engineer for each rocket launch – we might need *you*. If you made a rocket earlier this afternoon, bring it back to launch. And, of course, rocket launches can always use lots of spectators! Grissom Memorial (45 min).
- 9:30pm **StoneBelt Stargazer’s STAR PARTY** – Get a whole new perspective on the night sky when you view it through a telescope! The Stargazers will bring their telescopes to share - and point out some of the wonders of the night. We suggest bringing lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on (and your own binoculars or telescope, if you have one). Swimming Pool parking lot (1½ hr).

Sunday, July 16 ***VIRGIL I. “GUS” GRISSOM DAYS***

- 8:30am **Non-Denominational Worship Service** – Christian service presented by a local minister. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).
- 10:00am **Out-of-this-World Challenge for Kids!** – Prizes for all kids who are willing to try answering some questions about NASA, Space, and Gus Grissom. Grissom Memorial (45 min).
- 11am-4pm **The National Museum of the United States Air Force** - “Gus” Grissom received part of his training at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base where the National USAF Museum is located. A representative will have brochures, trinkets and posters to hand out and can answer questions about the National Air Force Museum. Grissom Memorial.
- 11am-4pm **Solar Viewing** – Ever wonder what the surface of the Sun looks like? Find out with the StoneBelt Stargazers by gazing at our star through special telescopes (don’t try this at home!). Grissom Memorial.
- 12:00pm **A Taste of Space** – Eating dinner in space can be a challenge! See and sample some of the food that astronauts eat in their off-world flights. Grissom Memorial (30 min).
- 1:00pm **The Story of Virgil I. “Gus” Grissom** – Join “Gus” Grissom’s nephew, Steve Grissom, for stories and a slide presentation about Mitchell’s hometown hero. Grissom Memorial (45-60min).
- 1-4pm **How Crane Relates to NASA** – Check out specialty batteries and other pieces produced for NASA with a representative from the Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center. Grissom Memorial.
- 2:00pm **Model Rocket Launch** – We need some spectators to watch as we launch model rockets high into the air and see them soar out of sight... but what goes up always comes back down! Field next to Sycamore Shelter (60 min).
- 3:00pm **StoneBelt Stargazers** – Join our local astronomy club for more solar viewing and information about what the club does and how you can join. Grissom Memorial (45 min).
- 4:00pm **Pop Bottle Rocket Launch** – The Launch Countdown has begun! We’ll need a Captain and an Engineer for each rocket launch – we might need *you*. (If you made a rocket yesterday and it’s still in one piece, bring it back to launch again!) And, of course, rocket launches can always use lots of spectators! Grissom Memorial (45 min).

Monday, July 17

10:30am

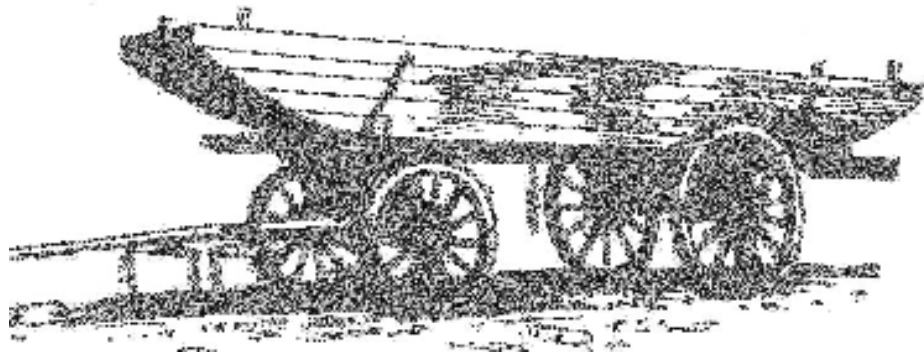


Spring Mill Scavenger Hunt – Families and individuals are invited to participate in this outdoor scavenger hunt! No driving involved - everything on the list can be found in the area around the Nature Center. You'll have till noon to find as many items as you can! **PRIZES for all participants!** Meet at the Nature Center, front patio.

1-3pm



Dazzling Dragons and Damsels – Ever touched a dragonfly or damselfly? We'll help you get an up-close encounter with one of these winged beauties and explore a few of the many varieties by the lake. Watch for the roving naturalist along Trail 5 behind the Nature Center.



Tuesday, July 18

10:30am



Cemetery Stroll – Discover the stories behind some of the people buried in Hamer Cemetery and learn what their connection was to Spring Mill Village. Meet in front of Hamer Cemetery (30 min).

1-2pm



Copperheads and Watersnakes – Learn to tell the difference between these two snakes, find out which one of them can be found in our creek, and meet our resident watersnake. Watch for the roving naturalist along the creek near the Pioneer Village.

2:30pm

Spring Pole Lathe Demonstration – See how pioneer craftsmen turned table legs, rungs, and other round items using a hickory pole to help power the machine. Pioneer Village, Woodshop (30 min).

Wednesday, July 19

2:00pm



Historic Tour of the Pioneer Village – Hear the history and stories of the people and buildings of Spring Mill Village on this guided stroll. Meet in the Pioneer Village, in front of Sheek's (Weaver's) Cabin (1 hr).

Thursday, July 20

2:30pm

Spinning Demonstration – Watch a pioneer reenactor working at the wheel! Find out what was made at the spinning wheel and its importance to pioneer life. Pioneer Village, Upper Residence Porch (30 min).

Friday, July 21

10-11 am



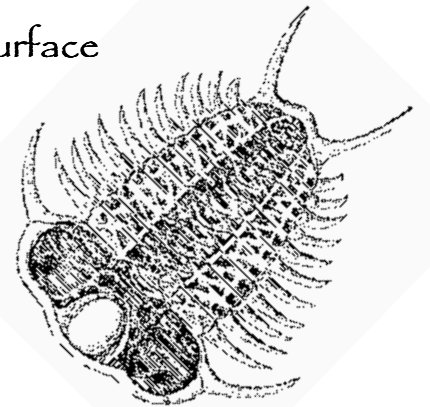
It's an Invasion! – Spring Mill State Park is being invaded by a variety of non-native plants that threaten the park's ecosystem. Discover which ones pose the greatest threat and learn to recognize a few of our problem plants. Watch for the roving naturalist in the Pioneer Village. **HP-HP**

2:30pm




The Indiana Ocean – Don't remember seeing an ocean in Indiana? Well... maybe you're a little too young! Learn more about the time when our entire state was under water and sea creatures swam above Spring Mill State Park. Meet at Oak Ridge Shelter parking lot (30 min).


Earth is constantly changing—nothing on its surface is truly permanent. Rocks that are now on top of a mountain may once have been at the bottom of the sea. Thus, to understand the world we live on, we must add the dimension of time. - *Lucy Edwards and John Pojeta, Jr.*



Saturday, July 22

- 11:30am **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 1:30pm **Blacksmith Demonstration** – Discover a few of the many products made the pioneer blacksmith and explore the technique behind them. Blacksmith’s Shop (30 min).
- 2:30pm **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 4:00pm  **One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish** – Learn about the types of fish living in our lake, find out what permits you need to drop a line in, and discover why the lake looks a little murky these days. Meet at the Nature Center, back patio (30 min). **HP-HP**
- 7:00pm **Meet Smokey Bear!** – Meet the popular fire safety spokes-bear, Smokey! Smokey Bear will teach children the basics of fire safety and join with them in playing several games. Parents, bring your camera and take a picture of your child with Smokey Bear! Campground Amphitheater (1 hr).


Sunday, July 23

- 8:30am **Non-Denominational Worship Service** – Christian service presented by a local minister. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).
- 9:15am **Watersnake Watch** – Meet our resident watersnake and find out why this kind of snake well-adapted to life in the village creek. Pioneer Village, Concession Stand (20 min).
- 11am-12pm  **Cave Connections** – Did you know that Donaldson and Bronson Caves are connected? Discover how Spring Mill’s underground is tied together by our cave system and how you can get permission to explore the Donaldson-Bronson link. Watch for a roving naturalist by Bronson Cave.
- 11:30am **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).


Sunday, July 23 *Continued...*

- 1:30pm **Corn Husk Dolls** – Toys were simpler in the 1800s. Join us and make an easy version of this common pioneer toy. Pioneer Village, Upper Residence Porch (30 min).
- 2:30pm **Become an Insect-ologist!** – Design your own insect to take home while discovering what makes an insect an insect. Following the craft, we’ll take a short, easy walk along the lake edge to look for insects in the wild. Nature Center, back patio (45 min).
- 2:30pm **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).


Monday, July 24

- 11:00am **Snake Story** – Learn about the common snakes of Spring Mill State Park, and where you are most likely to see one in the wild, while meeting our resident snakes up-close. Nature Center, program room (45 min).
- 2-3pm  **Nothing but Nature** – Discover the importance of Indiana’s nature preserves, how many we have, and the special rules that govern them. Watch for the roving naturalist along Trail 6.

Tuesday, July 25

- 10-11am **Park Patch Program** – Drop by the Nature Center to find out how you can earn a free patch and certificate this summer while enjoying our state parks and reservoirs. For families and individuals ages 5 thru adult. (Group leader? Ask about the Hoosier Pathfinder Patch!)
- 1:00pm  **Wild Edible Walk** – Explore some of the many plants growing in the forests of Indiana that can be enjoyed as food or drink. From candies to soup to tea, our forests are a pantry of possibilities! Meet at Grissom Memorial (45 min).
- 2:30pm **Needle Crafts** – Learn the basics of crocheting in this hands-on program. Pioneer women used this needle craft to make doilies and trim items like pillowcases and kerchiefs, as well as creating heirloom items to pass on their children. Pioneer Village, Weaver’s Cabin (30 min).

Wednesday, July 26



- 2:30pm** **Music of the 1860s** – Listen to some of the most popular songs of 1860s and explore the stories and people behind the music. Pioneer Village, Woodshop Lawn (30 min).
- 5-7pm**  **Pandora's Insect Box** – Learn about the Emerald Ash Borer, an insect we hope will *not* be unleashed upon our park! Find out why this beetle is such a threat and learn what you can do to stop its spread. Watch for the roving naturalist in the campground. **HP-HP**
- 8:00pm** **Family Game Night** – Join us for fun, nature-based games that the whole family can play together. Meet in the field next to Sycamore Shelter (45 min).

Of all the wonders of nature, a tree in summer is perhaps the most remarkable; with the possible exception of a moose singing "Embraceable You" in spats. ~Woody Allen


Thursday, July 27

- 2:30pm** **Pioneer Toys** – Come see what pioneer children used to play with and try your hand at some of the games. Pioneer Village, Gristmill (30 min).

Friday, July 28


- 10:00am**  **Wings on the Water** – Keep an eye out for great blue herons, mallards, wood ducks, buffleheads, and more as we check out the park's wetland. You'll learn a bit about waterfowl behavior and discover how to identify common species. Meet in front of Sycamore Shelter (1 hr).
- 1-2pm**  **Furry Friends** – Check out the furs of some of our Indiana mammals and learn more about where they live and how they survive. Watch for the roving naturalist outside the Munson House in the Pioneer Village (then head inside the shop to see what a pioneer leatherworker might have done with the hides!).

Saturday, July 29


- 10:30am** **Make a Possible Bag** – What will you use your bag for? The possibilities are endless! Find out what uses a pioneer might have had for a small leather bag as you make your own. Leather Shop (30 min).
- 11:30pm**  **Caves and Karst** – Discover why this area of Indiana has so many caves as we explore the biggest cave in Spring Mill State Park. *Bring a flashlight and wear good shoes!* Meet in Donaldson parking lot (1 hr).
- 11:30am** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 1:30pm** **Spectacular Suncatchers** – Using wire, beads, and other materials, we'll help you craft a pair of beautiful, unique suncatchers (one large, one small) that can cast color throughout a room. Insects will be the inspiration for our designs, but the finished products are limited only by your imagination! **Cost is \$2/person. Limited to 20 people.** Nature Center, back patio (45 min). *See an example and sign up for the craft beginning at 9:30am in the Nature Center.*
- 2:30pm** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 3:30-4:30pm** **Welcoming Wildlife** – Want to invite nature into your own backyard? Drop in and find out what you need to offer to attract the animals you want to see. Nature Center, bird viewing area.
- 9:30pm** **StoneBelt Stargazer's Star Party** – Get a whole new perspective on the night sky! The Stargazers will bring their telescopes to share - and point out some of the wonders of our universe (like the *Delta Aquarid meteor shower* going on tonight!). We suggest bringing lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on (and your own binoculars or telescope, if you have one). Swimming Pool parking lot (1½ hr).

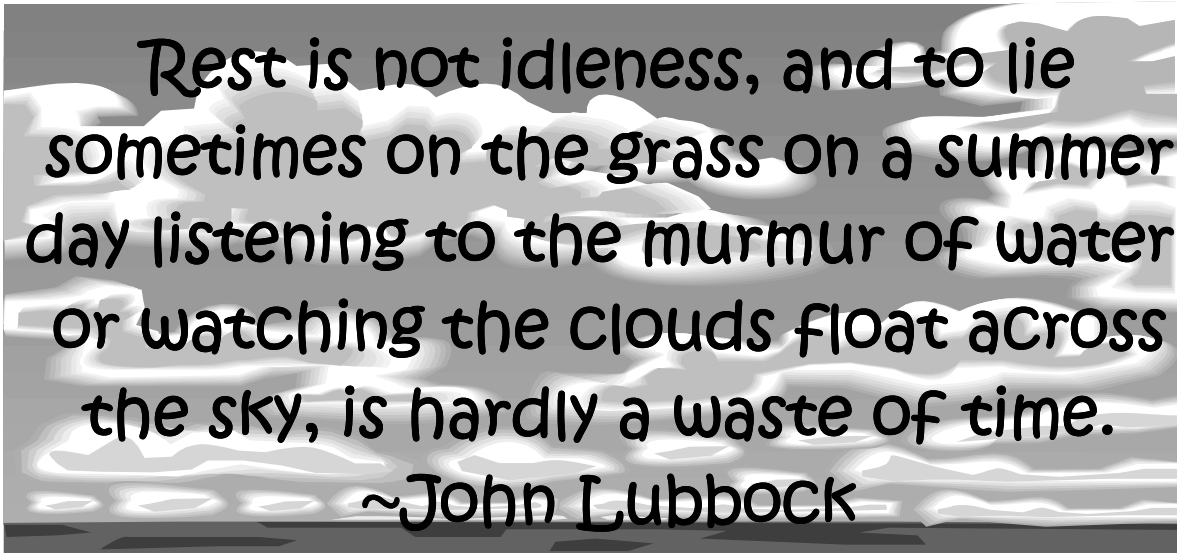
*There they stand, the innumerable stars, shining in order
like a living hymn, written in light. ~N.P. Willis*

Sunday, July 30

- 8:30am Non-Denominational Worship Service – Christian service presented by a local minister. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).
- 11:00am Raptor Rundown – Learn about our native birds of prey, and which ones you are most likely to see in this park, during this slide show presentation. Nature Center, program room (45 min).
- 11:30am Sawmill Demonstration - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 1-2pm  Water-loving Life – Check out the flowers, trees, insects, and animals that thrive along the edges of our lake. We’ll chase dragonflies and butterflies (and maybe even get an up-close look at a frog or turtle). Watch for the roving naturalist along Trail 5 between the Nature Center and the main road.
- 2:30pm Sawmill Demonstration - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).

Monday, July 31

- 1:30pm  Historic Tour of the Pioneer Village – Hear the history and stories of the people and buildings of Spring Mill Village on this guided stroll. Meet in the Pioneer Village, in front of Sheek’s (Weaver’s) Cabin (1 hr).



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

- AUG 5-6 PIONEER HERITAGE DAYS
- AUG 12 AWESOME ASTRONOMY & PERSEID METEOR SHOWER ALL-NITER
- AUG 19 HAPPY 240TH BIRTHDAY, ALEXANDER WILSON!
- AUG 26-27 GONE CAVING
- SEPT 2 ARCHAEOLOGY ROADSHOW
- SEPT 9 AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
- SEPT 22 TRI-KAPPA PIONEER VILLAGE CANDLELIGHT TOUR
- OCT 7 CAMPSITE DECORATING CONTEST
- OCT 7-8 AUTUMN HARVEST DAYS
- OCT 14 HAUNTED PIONEER VILLAGE
- OCT 14-15 SCARECROW WEEKEND
- OCT 21-22 FALL FAMILY WEEKEND
- NOV 4 AUTUMN CRAFTS DAY
- NOV 11 AUTUMN CRAFTS DAY & SPRING MILL INN CRAFT SHOW
- NOV 18 THANKSGIVING CRAFTS DAY
- NOV 19 THANKSGIVING IN THE VILLAGE
- NOV 24-25 HOLIDAY CRAFTS DAYS
- DEC 1-2 HOLIDAY IN THE VILLAGE
- DEC 2 CAMPSITE DECORATING CONTEST
- DEC 16 WRIGHT BROTHER’S DAY